

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

SAM-01 /081 W

----- 081824

R 191255Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7980

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 681

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: WEST BANK UNEASY AS CURFEWS IN NABLUS, RAMALLAH AND  
AL BIRA CONTINUE

1. SUMMARY: PALESTINIAN FLAGS FLEW AT JERUSALEMITE'S FUNERAL.  
TEMPORARY LIFTING OF CURFEW PROMPTS DEMONSTRATION IN NABLUS.  
CURFEWS CONTINUE IN RAMALLAH AND AL BIRA, BUT END IN TWO REFUGEE  
CAMPS. ONLY MINOR PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN WEST BANK. JERUSALEM  
POST URGES BENIGN NEGLECT. END SUMMARY.

2. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CHANTING NATIONALIST SLOGANS, PARTI-  
CIPATED IN FUNERAL MAY 18 OF MAHMUD KURD, SHOT BY ISRAELI  
SECURITY FORCES THAT DAY IN OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM (REFTEL).  
LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT PALESTINIAN FLAGS WERE RAISED ABOVE  
AL AQSA MOSQUEWHERE PRAYERS WERE SAID AND ST. STEPHEN'S GATE  
NEAR MUSLIM CEMETERY. ACCORDING TO JERUSALEM POST, ISRAELI  
CIVILIAN BADLY BEATEN BY ARAB YOUTHS WHEN HE TRIED TO PREVENT  
HOISTING OF FLAG AT GATE. POLICE REPORTEDLY DISPERSED CROWDS  
WITH TEAR GAS AFTER FUNERAL, BUT NO INJURIES OR ARRESTS AT  
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THAT TIME REPORTED. LOCALS REPORT POLICE HAVE DETAINED

MANY PEOPLE FROM COMMERCIAL CENTER OF EAST JERUSALEM, SALADIN STREET, FOLLOWING THE STRIKE OF MAY 18. MOST EAST JERUSALEM STORES ALSO CLOSED MAY 19.

3. IN NABLUS, DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTING THE DEATHS IN KALANDIA AND JERUSALEM, TOOK TO STREETS MAY 18, THE ARABIC DAILY AL QUDSM REPORTED. CURFEW IN PART OF CITY WHICH HAD BEEN LIFTED AFTER 32 STRAIGHT HOURS WAS RE-IMPOSED. CURFEWS ALSO REMAIN IN EFFECT IN RAMALLSH AND AL BIRA; THEY HAVE BEEN LIFTED IN REFUGEE CAMPS AT BALATA 8NEAR NABLUS) AND JENIN.

4. SOUTHER WEST BANK REMAINS RELATIVELY CALM. HOWEVER, 16 STUDENT FROM MENNONITE SCHOOL IN BEIT JALA WERE DETAINED MAY 18 AFTER A BARRICADE WAS ERECTED AT AN INTERSECTION IN FRONT OF SCHOOL. THEY WERE RELEASED FOLLOWING TALKS BETWEEN THE MILGOV AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND MAYORS OF REGION. BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN ON STRIKE FOR PAST FEW DAYS.

5. IN MAY 19 EDITORIAL JERUSALEM ISST NOTES TROOPS GENERALLY NOT TECHNICALLY TRAINED OR MENTALLY PREPARED FOR JOB THEY NOW GIVEN AND SUGGEST THAT SECURITY FORCES SHOULD FOLLOW POLICY OF JUDICIOUS "BENIGN NEGLECT" IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. "THE MAIN ARTERIES OF COMMUNICATION...MUST BE KEPT OPEN...BUT IT IS BY NO MEANS EVIDENT THAT ANY USEFUL NATIONAL INTEREST IS BEING SERVED BY HAVING THE ARMY PATROL EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY IN EVERY ARAB TOWN, AND CHASE AFTER EVERY NIMBLE GROUP OF STONE-HURLING YOUTH". CONSIDERING THE PROVOCATION, EDITORIAL COMPLIMENTS TROOPS FOR THEIR "DISCIPLINE AND SELF-RESTRAINT" BUT ADMITS "IT IS NOW OBVIOUS THAT IN MAY CASES STANDING ORDERS HAVE EITHER BEEN IGNORED OR GIVEN LOOSE INTERPRETATION; AND THAT TOO MUCH LEEWAY HAS BEEN ALLOWED THE TROOPS, WITH THE OPEN OR TACIT ACQUIESCENCE OF OFFICERS, TO SIMPLY VENT THEIR FEARS AND FRUSTRATIONS ON THE LOCAL PEOPLE".  
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## Message Attributes

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